

CHAPTER 48  
CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR **JUDICIAL**  
**BRANCH-COURT** INTERPRETERS

[Prior to April 1, 2008, see Chapter 15]

PREAMBLE

Many ~~persons-people~~ are partially or completely excluded from participation in ~~court-legal~~ proceedings due to ~~the-their~~ ~~person's~~ limited proficiency in the English language, being deaf, blind, hard-of-hearing, or having a speech disability. These communication barriers must be removed as much as is reasonably possible so that all ~~persons-people~~ may enjoy equal access to justice. A trained and ~~certified-qualified~~ interpreter is a highly skilled professional who ~~helps judges conduct hearings justly and efficiently when communication barriers exist~~ plays a critical role in achieving this important goal by ensuring accurate communication during legal proceedings.

APPLICABILITY

The Code of Professional Conduct for ~~Judicial Branch-Court~~ Interpreters (hereafter the “Code of Conduct”) governs the delivery of services by ~~foreign language-oral~~ and sign language interpreters working in ~~the-a courts-court or an administrative law proceeding, any legal proceeding preparatory to a court or an administrative law proceeding, or and- an other-offices office~~ of the Iowa judicial branch.

~~Its-The~~ purpose of this Code of Conduct is to define the duties of an interpreter and thereby enhance the administration of justice and promote public confidence in the ~~courts legal system~~. This Code of Conduct also applies to real-time reporters when functioning in the capacity of providing access to court users.

DEFINITIONS

Throughout this chapter:

- (1) “Court proceeding” is any proceeding before a court or administrative law judge;
- (2) “Interpreting” is the act of transferring the meaning of spoken words or signs into the equivalent meaning in another oral or sign language;
- (3) “Legal proceeding” is an action intended to prepare any evidence, document, party or witness for a court or an administrative law proceeding, or any action before a court or an administrative law judge;
- (4) “Limited English proficient (LEP) person” is someone who does not speak English as her or his primary language and has a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English;
- (5) ~~The word~~ “shall” “Shall” is used to define principles to which adherence is required;
- (6) “Sight translation” is the act of transferring verbally, or through the use of sign language, the meaning of written text in one language into the equivalent meaning in another language;
- (7) “Source language” is the spoken, written, or signed communication that an interpreter or translator is to transfer into the equivalent meaning in another language, which is the “target” language;
- (8) “Target language” (see “Source language,” above); and
- (9) “Translating” is the act of transferring the meaning of written text in one language into the equivalent meaning in the written text of another language.

COMMENTS

~~The word "shall" is used to define principles to which adherence is required.~~ The Comments describe basic principles of the Code of Conduct. If a court policy or routine practice appears to conflict with any provision of the Code of Conduct, including the Comments, the policy or practice should be reviewed for modification.

**CANON 1**  
**ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS**

An interpreter shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation by reproducing in the target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to the meaning of what is stated or written, and without explanation.

**Comment to Canon 1.**

*Qualifications of an interpreter in a legal proceeding*

To fulfill the obligation to interpret completely and accurately in a legal proceeding, an interpreter should have college-level vocabularies, including legal terms and slang, in English and at least one other language. An interpreter must also have exceptional memory and verbal skills and at least some training in legal interpreting.

*Role of an interpreter in a legal proceeding*

~~An interpreter~~ in a legal proceeding has a two-fold role:

1) ~~to~~ To ensure that court proceedings reflect, in English, precisely what was is said by persons who are deaf, blind, or hard of hearing, or who have a speech disability, or who have no or limited proficiency in the English language an LEP participant in a language other than English is accurately expressed in English and what is said by an English-speaking participant is accurately expressed in the oral or sign language understood by the LEP participant; and

2) ~~to~~ To place persons who are deaf, blind, or hard of hearing, or who have a speech disability, or who have no or limited proficiency in the English language an LEP participant on an equal footing with ~~persons~~ a participant who understands English.

~~To fulfill these roles, a court~~ An interpreter ~~must should~~ apply the interpreter's best skills and judgment to preserve the meaning of what is said, as faithfully as possible ~~and without editing adding or omitting words or phrases~~. The interpreter should express the style or register of speech, the ambiguities and nuances of the speaker, and the level of language that best conveys the original meaning of the source language, even if the LEP participant does not completely understand that level of language. Under the "equal footing" principle, the interpreter must strive to place an LEP participant on the same footing as an English-speaking participant, and many English-speaking participants do not understand all the legal, technical, or slang terms used in a legal proceeding.

1 | \_\_\_\_ Verbatim, “word for word,” or literal oral interpretations are *inappropriate* when they distort the  
2 | meaning of what was said in the source language. However, all spoken statements, including  
3 | misstatements, should be interpreted, even if they appear non-responsive, obscene, rambling, or  
4 | incoherent.

5 |  
6 | ~~An interpreter must never interject the interpreter’s own statement or elaboration. If the need arises~~  
7 | ~~to explain. Sometimes, a speaker in a court proceeding might use~~ a term or phrase ~~with that has no~~  
8 | direct equivalent in the target language. ~~or a misunderstanding that only the interpreter can clarify,~~  
9 | When this occurs in a court proceeding, the interpreter should ask the ~~court judge’s~~ permission to  
10 | ~~provide an explanation~~ explain the situation, and then offer the most accurate interpretation possible  
11 | under the circumstances. If this situation arises in a legal proceeding preparatory to a court proceeding,  
12 | the interpreter should inform the attorney(s), or the supervisor of the activity if no attorney is involved,  
13 | about the language issue, and then offer the most accurate interpretation possible under the  
14 | circumstances.

15 |  
16 | An oral language interpreter should convey the emotional emphasis of the speaker without  
17 | reenacting or mimicking the speaker’s emotions, or dramatic gestures. A sign language interpreter,  
18 | however, must employ all of the visual cues that the language being interpreted requires, including  
19 | facial expressions, body language, and hand gestures. Judges should ensure that court participants do  
20 | not confuse these essential elements of the interpreted language with inappropriate interpreter conduct.  
21 | Any challenge to the interpreter’s conduct should be directed to the judge.

22 |  
23 | The obligation to preserve accuracy includes the interpreter’s duty to correct any errors of  
24 | interpretation discovered during the proceeding. An interpreter should demonstrate professionalism by  
25 | objectively analyzing any challenge to the interpreter’s performance.

#### 26 | Preparation by an interpreter in a legal proceeding

27 |  
28 |  
29 | The ethical responsibility to interpret accurately and completely includes the responsibility of  
30 | being properly prepared for interpreting assignments. An interpreter is encouraged to obtain public  
31 | documents and other public information necessary to become familiar with the nature and purpose of a  
32 | proceeding. Prior preparation ~~is generally described below and~~ is especially important when testimony  
33 | or documents are likely to include highly specialized terminology and subject matter.

34 |  
35 | ~~In order to~~ To avoid any impropriety, or even the appearance of impropriety, an interpreter should  
36 | seek permission of the court before conducting any preparation ~~other than the review of public~~  
37 | ~~documents in the court file involving access to confidential information.~~ Courts ~~should may freely~~  
38 | grant such permission when appropriate necessary to assist an interpreter in discharging the  
39 | interpreter’s professional responsibilities.

40 |  
41 |  
42 | Preparation might include, but is not limited to:

43 |  
44 | 1) ~~review~~ Reviewing of public documents in the court file, such as motions and supporting  
45 | affidavits, witness lists, and jury instructions; the criminal complaint, information, and preliminary  
46 | hearing transcript in a criminal case; and the summons, complaint, and answer in a civil case;

- 1        2) Reviewing information from public sources such as dictionaries, newspapers, online case  
2 records, or other internet sites;  
3        3) ~~review~~ Reviewing of documents in the possession of counsel, such as police reports, witness  
4 summaries, deposition transcripts, and presentence investigation reports, ~~and obtaining a written copy~~  
5 ~~of witness lists from the court;~~  
6        4) ~~contacting~~ Contacting any previous interpreter involved in the case for information on language  
7 use or style;  
8        5) ~~contacting~~ Contacting attorneys or parties involved in the case for additional information on  
9 anticipated testimony or exhibits; or  
10       6) ~~anticipating~~ Anticipating and discussing interpreting issues related to the case with the judge,  
11 but only in the presence of counsel unless the court directs otherwise.  
12 [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1,  
13 2008]

## **CANON 2**

### ***REPRESENTATION OF QUALIFICATIONS***

19       An interpreter shall accurately and completely represent the interpreter's certification, education,  
20 interpreter training, and experience. ~~An interpreter shall promptly report to the director of the office of~~  
21 ~~professional regulation any disciplinary action taken against the interpreter in any other jurisdiction.~~

#### **Comment to Canon 2.**

25       By accepting a court case, an interpreter asserts linguistic competency in legal settings.  
26 Withdrawing, or being asked to withdraw, after a court proceeding has begun is disruptive and  
27 wasteful of scarce public resources. It is essential that an interpreter present a complete and truthful  
28 account of the interpreter's certification, education, interpreter training, ~~certification~~ and experience  
29 prior to appointment so the court can fairly evaluate the interpreter's qualifications for delivering  
30 interpreting services.

31 [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008,  
32 effective April 1, 2008]

## **CANON 3**

### ***IMPARTIALITY AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST***

38       An interpreter shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an  
39 appearance of bias. An interpreter shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

#### **Comment to Canon 3.**

43       ~~An interpreter serves as~~ As an officer of the court, ~~The an~~ interpreter's ~~duties~~ duty in a court  
44 proceeding ~~are is~~ to serve the court and the public regardless of whether the interpreter is publicly or  
45 privately retained.

1 An interpreter ~~of record~~ should avoid any conduct or behavior that presents the appearance of  
2 favoritism toward anyone during ~~the course~~ court of the proceedings. An interpreter should maintain a  
3 professional relationship with the interpreter's client, discourage the client's personal dependence on  
4 the interpreter, and avoid participation in the proceedings other than as an interpreter.

5  
6 An interpreter should strive for professional detachment ~~by avoiding~~ Verbal verbal and non-  
7 verbal displays of personal attitudes, prejudices, emotions, or opinions ~~must be avoided at all times~~.

8  
9 An interpreter shall not solicit or accept any payment, gift, or ~~gratuities~~ gratuity in addition to the  
10 interpreter's compensation.

11  
12 Any condition that interferes with the objectivity of an interpreter constitutes a conflict of interest  
13 and must be disclosed to the judge. An interpreter should only divulge necessary information when  
14 disclosing the conflict of interest. The disclosure shall not include privileged or confidential  
15 information. The following circumstances create potential conflicts of interest that must be disclosed:  
16

17 1) ~~the~~ The interpreter is a friend, associate, or relative of a party, counsel for a party, a witness, or a  
18 victim (in a criminal case) involved in the proceedings;

19 2) ~~the~~ The interpreter or the interpreter's friend, associate, or relative has a financial interest in the  
20 subject matter in controversy, a shared financial interest with a party to the proceeding, or any other  
21 interest that might be affected by the outcome of the case;

22 3) ~~the~~ The interpreter has served in an investigative capacity for any party involved in the case;

23 4) ~~the~~ The interpreter has previously been retained by a law enforcement agency to assist in the  
24 preparation of the criminal case at issue;

25 5) ~~the~~ The interpreter is an attorney or witness in the case at issue;

26 6) ~~the~~ The interpreter has previously been retained for employment by one of the parties; or

27 7) ~~for~~ For any other reason, the interpreter's independence of judgment would be compromised in  
28 the course of providing services.

29  
30 The court should carefully evaluate any potential conflict, but the existence of only one of the  
31 above circumstances will not automatically disqualify an interpreter if the interpreter is able to render  
32 services objectively. The interpreter should disclose to the court any indication that the recipient of  
33 interpreting services views the interpreter as being biased. If an actual or apparent conflict of interest  
34 exists, the court should decide whether removal is appropriate based upon the totality of the  
35 circumstances.

36 [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1,  
37 2008]

#### 38 39 CANON 4

#### 40 41 PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY AND DEMEANOR

42  
43 An interpreter shall act honestly and professionally, in a manner consistent with the dignity of the  
44 court.

#### 45 46 Comment to Canon 4.

1 An interpreter shall be honest and trustworthy in all interactions with the court and all other  
2 participants and agencies involved in legal proceedings. For example, an interpreter shall appear when  
3 scheduled to provide services, promptly report to an appropriate authority when a scheduling conflict  
4 arises, and accurately report time and expenses for interpreting services.

5  
6 An interpreter should avoid personal or professional conduct that could dishonor the court or the  
7 legal system. For example, an interpreter shall never take advantage of knowledge obtained in the  
8 performance of duties or through access to court records, facilities, or privileges for the interpreter's or  
9 another person's personal gain.

10  
11 An interpreter also should know and observe the established protocol, rules, and procedures for  
12 delivering interpreting services. When speaking in English, an interpreter should speak at a rate and  
13 volume that is audible and understandable throughout the courtroom. An interpreter should be as  
14 unobtrusive as possible and should not seek to attract inappropriate attention while performing the  
15 interpreter's professional duties. This includes any time the interpreter is present, even though not  
16 actively interpreting.

17  
18 An interpreter should avoid obstructing the view of anyone involved in the proceedings, but should  
19 be appropriately positioned to facilitate communication. An interpreter who uses sign language or  
20 other visual modes of communication must be positioned so that signs, facial expressions, and whole  
21 body movements are visible to the person for whom the interpreter is interpreting. When necessary,  
22 the interpreter should be repositioned to accommodate visual access to exhibits.

23  
24 ~~An interpreter should avoid personal or professional conduct that could dishonor the court.~~

25  
26 ~~An interpreter should support other interpreters by sharing knowledge and expertise with them to~~  
27 ~~the extent practicable in the interests of the court. [Moved to Canon 10]~~

28 [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008,  
29 effective April 1, 2008]  
30

## 31 CANON 5

### 32 CONFIDENTIALITY

33  
34  
35 An interpreter shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information.  
36 However, an interpreter may disclose information that would otherwise be privileged or confidential to  
37 the extent such disclosure is necessary to prevent reasonably certain death or bodily harm.

#### 38 39 Comment to Canon 5.

40  
41 An interpreter ~~must shall~~ uphold the confidentiality of any communications between attorney and  
42 client. ~~An interpreter and must shall also~~ refrain from repeating or disclosing information obtained in  
43 the course of the interpreter's employment.

44  
45 ~~The~~An interpreter shall accompany- a deaf or hard-of-hearing juror into the jury room and interpret  
46 for jury deliberations. When this occurs, The the interpreter ~~should shall~~ be neutral, ~~and should shall~~

not participate in jury deliberations., and ~~The interpreter~~ shall not disclose or comment upon jury deliberations.

~~— In the event an interpreter is providing services to a party and becomes aware of an intention to inflict harm or commit a crime, the interpreter should immediately disclose the information to the party's attorney. If the interpreter is interpreting for someone other than a party, the interpreter should immediately disclose the information to the presiding judge. In an emergency, the interpreter should disclose the information to an appropriate authority.~~

An interpreter providing services to an LEP party may disclose information obtained while providing interpreter services if the interpreter believes it is necessary to prevent reasonably certain death or bodily harm. If the LEP party is represented by an attorney, the disclosure shall be made to the party's attorney. If the LEP party is not represented by an attorney, the disclosure shall be made to the presiding judge or another appropriate authority if the judge is not available.

An interpreter providing services to an LEP participant who is not a party may disclose information obtained while providing interpreter services if the interpreter believes it is necessary to prevent reasonably certain death or bodily harm. The disclosure shall be made to the presiding judge or another appropriate authority if the judge is not available.

~~— An interpreter shall never take advantage of knowledge obtained in the performance of duties, or through access to court records, facilities, or privileges, for the interpreter's own or another's personal gain.~~ [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008]

## CANON 6

### RESTRICTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

An interpreter shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which the interpreter is or has been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential, except to facilitate training and education.

#### Comment to Canon 6.

Generally, an interpreter should not discuss interpreter assignments with anyone other than persons who have a formal duty associated with the case. However, an interpreter may share information for training and educational purposes, divulging only ~~so~~as much information as is required to accomplish this purpose. Unless so ordered by a court or permitted under Canon 5, an interpreter must never reveal privileged or confidential information for any purpose, including training and education. [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008]

## CANON 7

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE



~~While serving as a~~An interpreter, in a court, administrative law, or other legal proceeding shall provide only an interpreter shall limit the interpreter's conduct to interpreting or translating services. ~~The interpreter and~~ shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom interpreting services are being provided, or engage in other activities ~~which that~~ may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating.

## Comment to Canon 7.

Since an interpreter is responsible only for enabling others to communicate, the interpreter should limit the interpreter's conduct to ~~the activity of~~ interpreting or translating, ~~only, including official functions as described in the Comment to Canon 3.~~ An interpreter, however, may be required to initiate communications during a proceeding when the interpreter finds it necessary to seek direction from the court in performing the interpreter's duties. Examples of such circumstances include: seeking direction from the court when unable to understand or express a word or thought; requesting speakers to adjust their rate of speech or to repeat or rephrase something; correcting the interpreter's errors; or notifying the court of concerns about the interpreter's ability to fulfill an assignment competently. In such instances, the interpreter must make it clear the interpreter is speaking on his or her own behalf.

~~—While serving as an interpreter, the interpreter shall limit the interpreter's conduct to interpreting or translating and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to the individual for whom the interpreter is interpreting, or engage in any other activities which may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating.~~

An interpreter may convey legal advice from an attorney to a person only while that attorney is giving it. An interpreter should not explain the purpose or contents of forms or services, or otherwise act as a counselor or an advisor, unless the interpreter is interpreting for someone who is acting in that official capacity. An interpreter may interpret or translate language on a form or instructions for the form for an LEP person who is filling out the form. ~~However, but the interpreter should shall~~ not explain the form or ~~its purpose to such person~~ answer questions about it, though an interpreter may interpret for a court official who is authorized to answer questions about a court form. In general, ~~An~~ an interpreter should not perform functions that are the responsibility of ~~other attorneys or~~ court officials. [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008]

## CANON 8

### ASSESSING AND REPORTING IMPEDIMENTS TO PERFORMANCE

An interpreter shall assess at all times the interpreter's ability to deliver interpreting services. When an interpreter has any ~~reservation concern~~ about the interpreter's ability to ~~satisfy an assignment~~ competently provide services, the interpreter shall immediately convey that ~~reservation concern~~ to the appropriate ~~judicial~~ authority. An interpreter shall also report to the appropriate authority any effort by another person to impede the interpreter's compliance with this Code of Conduct, a law, court rule, or other official policy governing court interpreting and translating.

## Comment to Canon 8.



1 If the communication mode or language variety of the ~~deaf, blind, or hard-of-hearing, or non-~~  
2 ~~English-speaking LEP~~ person cannot be readily interpreted, the interpreter should notify the  
3 appropriate ~~judicial~~ authority, such as ~~a supervisory interpreter, an attorney,~~ a judge, or another ~~official~~  
4 ~~with jurisdiction over interpreter matters~~ person with authority over the proceeding.

5  
6 An interpreter should notify the appropriate ~~judicial~~ authority of any circumstances (e.g.,  
7 environmental or physical limitations) that impede the ability to deliver interpreting services  
8 adequately. For example, These the circumstances may include that the courtroom is not sufficiently  
9 quiet ~~enough~~ for the interpreter to hear or be heard by the non-English speaker; more than one person  
10 is speaking at the same time; or a person is speaking too quickly for the interpreter to ~~adequately~~  
11 accurately interpret. A sign language interpreter must ensure that the interpreter can both see and  
12 convey the full range of visual language elements that are necessary for communication, including  
13 facial expressions and body movements, as well as hand gestures.

14  
15 An interpreter should notify the judge or other appropriate authority of the need to take periodic  
16 breaks in order to maintain mental and physical alertness and prevent interpreter fatigue. An  
17 interpreter should inform the ~~court~~ judge or other appropriate authority when the use of team  
18 interpreting is necessary.

19  
20 Even a competent and experienced interpreter may encounter situations where routine proceedings  
21 suddenly involve slang, idiomatic expressions, or regional dialect, or technical or specialized  
22 terminology unfamiliar to the interpreter (e.g., the unscheduled testimony of an expert witness).  
23 When such situations occur, the interpreter should request a brief recess in order to become familiar  
24 with the subject matter. If familiarity with the terminology requires extensive time or more intensive  
25 research, the interpreter should inform the judge or other appropriate authority in a proceeding outside  
26 of court.

27  
28 An interpreter should refrain from accepting a case ~~which that~~ has language or subject matter that  
29 is likely to exceed the interpreter's capabilities. An interpreter should also notify the judge or other  
30 appropriate authority if the interpreter is unable to perform adequately for any reason.

31  
32 Some users of interpreting services might misunderstand the proper role of an interpreter in a legal  
33 proceeding. They might ask or expect the interpreter to engage in activities that are contrary to  
34 provisions in the Code of Conduct or other law, rules, or policies governing court interpreters. In this  
35 situation, an interpreter should explain the interpreter's professional obligations. If the person  
36 continues to demand that the interpreter violate a provision of the Code of Conduct, the interpreter  
37 should ask for assistance from a judge or other appropriate authority to resolve the matter.

38  
39 [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1,  
40 2008]

## 41 42 CANON 9

### 43 44 DUTY TO REPORT ETHICAL VIOLATIONS

45  
46 ~~An interpreter shall report to the proper judicial authority any effort to impede the interpreter's~~  
47 ~~compliance with any law, any provision of this Code of Conduct, or any other official policy~~

~~governing court interpreting and translating. An interpreter must immediately report the interpreter's conviction of a felony or any lesser crime of dishonesty or moral turpitude to the office of professional regulation (OPR). The interpreter must also immediately report any public discipline entered against the interpreter in another jurisdiction. The failure to make such a report may be an independent ground for discipline. An interpreter who observes another interpreter commit a serious violation of the Code of Conduct should submit a written complaint to the OPR.~~

#### **Comment to Canon 9.**

~~Because the users of interpreting services frequently misunderstand the proper role of an interpreter, they may ask or expect the interpreter to perform duties or engage in activities that are contrary to the provisions of the Code of Conduct or other law, rules, regulations, or policies governing court interpreters. An interpreter should explain the interpreter's professional obligations to the user. If, having been informed of these obligations, the person continues to demand that the interpreter violate an obligation under the Code of Conduct, the interpreter should ask for assistance from a supervisory interpreter, a judge, or another official with jurisdiction over interpreter matters to resolve the situation. An interpreter who observes another interpreter commit a serious violation of the Code of Conduct should file a written complaint with the OPR using the form provided by that office. Discretion should be exercised by the interpreter who observed the alleged unethical conduct when determining whether the alleged violation was sufficiently substantial to warrant discipline. Minor or infrequent interpreting errors might be technical violations of Canon 1, but they probably would not warrant discipline. Some examples of serious ethical violations by court interpreters include: frequent failures to interpret accurately or completely in court; falsification of a claim for interpreter services; publicly discussing confidential attorney-client communications; or clearly providing legal advice to an LEP participant in court.~~

~~In situations where there is doubt whether the conduct by another interpreter rises to the level of a serious ethical violation, an interpreter who observes a possible ethical violation should consider sharing her or his concerns with the other interpreter. This approach would alert the other interpreter to behavior or interpreting skills that need improvement, while fostering civility among court interpreters.~~

[Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008]

### *CANON 10*

#### *PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT*

An interpreter shall strive to become more skillful and knowledgeable and advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.

#### **Comment to Canon 10.**

An interpreter should improve the interpreter's interpreting skills and knowledge of the languages in which the interpreter works professionally, including past and current trends in slang, idiomatic

1 expression, changes in dialect, technical terminology, and social and regional dialects, as well as their  
2 applicability within court proceedings.  
3

4 An interpreter should keep informed of all statutes, rules of court, and policies of the judiciary that  
5 govern the performance of an interpreter's professional duties. An interpreter should seek to elevate  
6 the standards of the profession through participation in workshops, professional meetings, interaction  
7 with colleagues, and reading current literature in the field. An interpreter should support other  
8 interpreters by sharing knowledge and expertise with them to the extent practicable in the interests of  
9 the court.

10  
11 [Court Orders December 22, 2003, and April 26, 2004, effective November 1, 2004; February 14, 2008,  
12 effective April 1, 2008]